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## **The two versions of The Founder's Statement**

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The 'last words' of John E. Fetzer to his board, in September 1989, has come to be known as the Founder's Statement." The last section of that statement is called "Final Principles," and which is presented below. The first sentence of the "Final Principles" statement has two versions -- John's original version, and the final version after Rob and John edited it together (in fact, the titling of this statement as "Final Principles" was done in the same editing process).

John's initial version begins:

"I am sure that as you listen you will hear the ring of truth, first and foremost, trying to create an environment {my underline} within the Foundation community of freedom."

The final edited version is:

"I am sure that as you listen you will hear the ring of truth, first and foremost, trying to create a community of freedom {my underline} within the Institute ..."

In John's original version, it is an **environment** —a 'vibe'—that "the ring of truth" is trying to create ... which is what a spiritual sound, or 'ring of truth', does of course - it creates an *inner environment* affecting those who hear it. This strongly implies (within the context of surat shabd philosophy, and Masonic/Rosicrucian as well BTW {pertaining to "the lost word"}, as well as to shamanistic practices) that we, by individually listening to the ringing, participate in—we tune in to—that environment or vibe. This emphasis also implies that the Fetzer 'community of freedom' is a given, in the Theosophical sense of a group doing practice together to 'invoke the Masters of the Deity' ... and so what we in the community need to do is individually tune in—that is, listen. And it helps to do that while sitting together -- the group practice builds the energy, etc. (as implied by the Biblical statement, "Where two or more are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.")

In the final version, a **community** is what "the ring of truth" is trying to create ... thus moving that phrase into prominence and making the sentence perhaps more 'static'.